

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

## Scientific and General

THOMAS M. LOGAN, M.D., ORGANIZER OF  
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
AND A CO-FOUNDER OF THE CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION\*

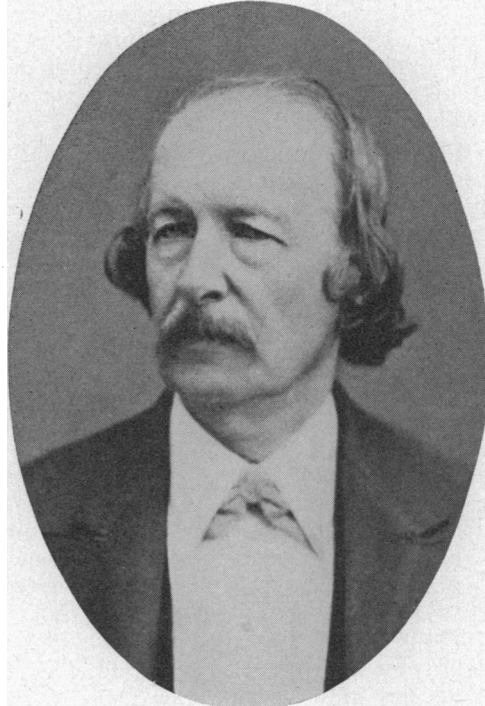
GUY P. JONES  
*San Francisco*

THE Logan family traces its lineage to the ancient and once powerful barons of Scotland. The family became established in America in 1698 with the arrival of Colonel George Logan, a retired English Army officer, at Charleston, South Carolina. His descendants lived the lives of landed proprietors and our story may well begin with young George Logan who in 1750 was sent to Great Britain by his father where he studied medicine at Edinburgh, Scotland, at that time a great center of education. His father was well-to-do, having accumulated considerable wealth through the activities of the members of the family who had preceded him. While a student in Edinburgh, young George Logan fell in love with Honoria Muldrop, the eldest daughter of Christian Muldrop, His Danish Majesty's Counsel for Scotland and the North of England. George Logan obtained his medical degree in 1774 and was married at Leith, Scotland, in 1775. His father was bitterly opposed to the marriage and the young couple remained in Great Britain, most of the time in London, until after the birth of the first child in 1776. The following summer the father of the young doctor relented and sent for the young couple to come to Charleston, and the elder Logan's repugnance to the son's marriage to the Danish girl was completely dissolved. The second son was born in Charleston, January 4, 1778. He, too, became a physician and his son, Dr. Thomas Muldrop Logan, became a pioneer in public health in California and in the United States.

## BORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Thomas M. Logan was born in Charleston, January 31, 1808. The Muldrop in his name was given at the request of his Danish grandmother in remembrance of a beloved brother. In his twentieth year, he married Miss Susan W. A. Richardson, the only daughter of John S. Richardson, who at that time was a judge of the Supreme Court of South Carolina and who had previously served as Attorney General of that commonwealth. Judge Richardson owned large estates in South Carolina and because of his wealth was able to provide funds to send his young son-in-law to Europe for the purpose of advancing his medical education. Young Logan had graduated from the Medical College of South Carolina and for a year or two had practiced his pro-

fession at Clarendon, South Carolina. This opportunity to study in Europe was of tremendous importance and unquestionably was the great factor in determining his career in public health. Leaving his family with his wife's parents, he went to Paris and to Great Britain where he spent many months in the hospitals and lecture rooms of medical centers. In 1828, when young Logan graduated from medical school in South Carolina, medical education was more or less empirical. Scientific medicine was just beginning to develop in European countries. Asiatic cholera first appeared in Europe in 1832 and Logan had the advantage of seeing cases and of studying the disease in Paris.



Thomas Muldrop Logan, M.D., Organizer of California State Board of Public Health.  
Co-Founder of California Medical Association (Medical Society of the State of California).

## PRACTICED IN NEW ORLEANS

Upon returning to Charleston, Dr. Logan practiced his profession for several years but without great financial returns. The compensation that he received for his services, in fact, was so small that he became greatly discouraged and after a few years he went to New Orleans where he established a large practice and became a member of the medical staff of the famous Charity Hospital as well as medical director of a government hospital, Lutzenberg, which had been established for the benefit of veterans in the War of 1812. In 1848, the hospital was closed, probably because of the fact that so few veterans of that war remained that hospital facilities were no longer needed.

## SAILS FOR CALIFORNIA

The exact motive that impelled Dr. Logan to leave New Orleans for California is not known but it is presumed that the closing of this hospital coincidental with the discovery of gold in California led to his departure from New Orleans March 8, 1849. At all events, he must have possessed a remarkable spirit of adventure. He was

\* Ed. Note.—For other articles in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in which reference is made to the founding of the California State Board of Public Health and to the activities of Doctor Thomas M. Logan, see following issues: June, 1937, page 400; October, 1937, page 250; August, 1939, page 77; and January, 1940, page 2 (Federal Department of Health officially proposed by Thomas M. Logan in 1871), and page 6.

The author of the present article is Mr. Guy P. Jones who entered the service of the California Department of Health in 1911. In 1913, State Health Director William F. Snow delegated him to be the clerk of the State Tuberculosis Commission of which the Editor was chairman. Mr. Jones has been deeply interested in the history of the California Department of Public Health and has gathered many interesting papers concerning its development.

41 years old when he boarded the schooner *St. Mary* for California. This was a small vessel of 75 tons and it was all but wrecked in the tempestuous voyage of nine months. Four months were consumed in doubling the Horn and the vessel did not arrive in San Francisco until January 26, 1850. Its decks were awash most of the time and had it not put into port at St. Carolyn's Island, off the coast of Brazil, it would have run short of provisions. A supply of pigs, poultry, and vegetables was taken aboard and, according to Dr. Logan, these supplies alone probably prevented the development of scurvy in the small crew. The doctor's medicine chest became a total loss as it was soaked with sea water just after the vessel left New Orleans. During the voyage of nine months, no one aboard the vessel was able to keep their clothing dry for any great length of time. When the storm-tossed, weather-beaten schooner docked in San Francisco harbor, its splintered masts were added to the veritable forests of masts and spars that had sprung like magic in San Francisco Bay following the discovery of gold. Almost overnight, the population of the City of San Francisco had grown to five or six thousand and during the next few months following Dr. Logan's arrival, no less than 40,000 immigrants on their way to the gold field had passed through the Port of San Francisco.

#### INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Shortly after his arrival, he became physician to the Strangers' Friend Society, concerning which no information is available at the present time. He had expected to find an Italian climate but after a short time came to the conclusion that he had been grossly deceived. In writing later to his brother-in-law in New Orleans, he said, "I have passed two rainy and two dry months in San Francisco. I have traveled through one month of spring and two months of summer among the northern mines and have resided near three months of summer and fall in Sacramento City where I am now actively engaged in the practice of my profession, and during all this period, I can conscientiously say that I have not passed one perfectly well or pleasant day." His disillusionment and physical illness caused him to leave San Francisco in April after spending barely four months in that city.

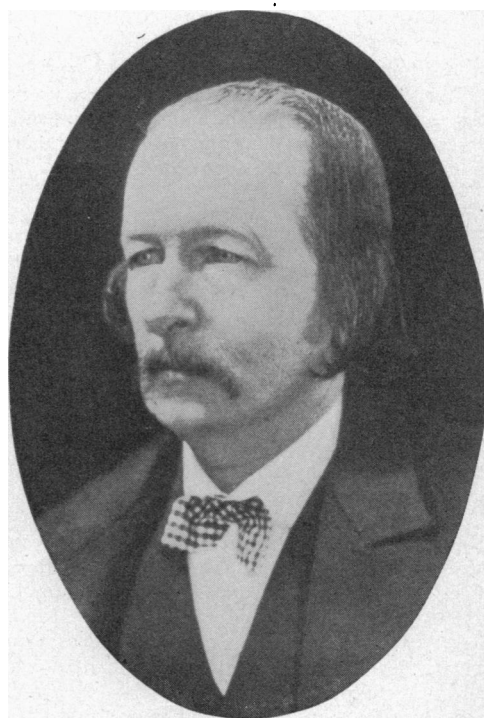
#### JOURNEYS TO SACRAMENTO

In Sacramento, he found that mining camp inundated by the muddy waters of the Sacramento River. After visiting the northern mining regions on the Feather and Yuba rivers, he proceeded to the Mother Lode district, spending most of his time in Hangtown, which was later to become Placerville. In the early autumn of 1850, he returned to Sacramento where he resided for the rest of his life, which ended in February of 1876.

Immediately after his arrival he opened a small hospital on what was then the outskirts of the settlement. At this time, Sacramento extended for about one mile along the river front and its odd collection of tents, shacks, rough homes, and business buildings stretched out on a long finger of land which extended from about the middle of the settlement along the water front. It will be remembered that General John A. Sutter had established a settlement at a point between the Sacramento and American rivers where he constructed a fort which, in reconstructed form, is still standing. This was the nucleus of what was later to become the City of Sacramento. Up to 1844, Fort Sutter was the great trading post of northern California and the commercial life of the region centered about this historic fort. It was here in February of 1848 that a very excited James A. Mar-

shall announced to Sutter his discovery of gold at Coloma in the American River. These flecks of the precious metal introduced a momentous era in the history of the world. The migration that followed was not only one of the most extensive migrations of all history but it also was a factor of great importance in determining the type of civilization and the health of the people who at future times were to reside in this El Dorado. These migrations brought new diseases to the Pacific Coast as well as new strains of old diseases. It was the last frontier of America. For centuries it had lain almost unknown to white men; the formidable barriers presented by the Sierra Nevadas and the broad Pacific had made it the most isolated region on the continent. At this time, California was farther from the Atlantic seaboard, insofar as communication was concerned, than the colonies were from England. It required from 180 to 210 days to journey from New York to San Francisco by way of Cape Horn. Between California and the Atlantic, there lay a vast expanse of unsettled prairies, mountains, and deserts and in order to reach San Francisco by water, vessels were obliged to battle their way around the "Cape of Storms." The isolation of the adventurers who came to California in the gold rush was most complete. They constituted a world unto themselves.

It was into such a situation that Dr. Logan had come. Sacramento had grown from a settlement of 2,000 persons in October of 1849 to a town of 6,500 population in 1850. The first city directory of 1849 described the settlement as a camp having about 300 cloth houses and tents and about 30 camp sites, located in the open air under the trees.



Another photograph of Thomas Muldrop Logan, M.D.: Organizer of California State Board of Public Health. Co-Founder of California Medical Association (Medical Society of the State of California).

#### MORTALITY STATISTICS IN 1849

The mortality in 1849, according to Dr. John F. Morse, was exceedingly high; on some days of December of that

year, there were as many as 20 deaths in a population of 3,500. Immigrants dragging their way along the overland trail arrived in a state of complete exhaustion. Unquestionably, their physical condition was due largely to a lack of proper food as well as to the intense physical hardships that were incurred. Then, too, it must be remembered, that intestinal-borne diseases were carried across the continent by the wagon trains. Water supplied along the route became contaminated and many intestinal diseases, including typhoid and cholera, were carried across the continent by the immigrants.

A temporary city council was organized in Sacramento November 21, 1850, which provided a certain amount of health supervision. The city health department was not established until 1862, however, and it is believed to be the second city board of health to be organized in the United States. A city physician had been appointed several months before at a salary of \$400 per month, for the purpose of looking after the large number of sick immigrants, most of whom were completely exhausted after the ordeal of crossing the continent on foot. The mortality among such individuals in Sacramento in 1849 was tremendous. The hardships of the overland journey, the difficulty in obtaining proper food, and the terrific exhaustion that followed, claimed many lives. Of those who came by water, a large number contracted scurvy, and as a result of their rundown condition suffered other diseases after their arrival. The large numbers of deaths that occurred in Sacramento in 1849 gave the town a reputation as a veritable hotbed of disease. It was not the conditions in Sacramento that were responsible for this reputation but rather the unfortunate conditions of its residents upon their arrival. In 1850 most of the immigrants who, the year before, had come to Sacramento, now stopped at Hangtown (Placerville), which by this time, had become the center of the mining activities in California. From August 1st to November 1st of 1850 there were 700 deaths at Placerville. There was an average of seven deaths each day and on some days there were as many as 20. The unfortunate mortality conditions were thus shifted from Sacramento to Placerville.

#### FORTY-NINER DAYS IN SACRAMENTO

Sacramento was the starting point to the gold fields and the weary travelers who came by way of the overland route were most of them poor, miserable beings, so famished and diseased, or so depressed and despondent, as to make them easy prey of disease and death in a land where they had expected to find only health and fortune. Scurvy-ridden subjects from the ocean began to concentrate with the enormous train of "scorbutic" sufferers coming in from the overland roads, so exhausted in strength and so worn with the calamities of the journey as to be but barely able to reach Sacramento. From these sources, Sacramento became a veritable camp of disease, suffering and death, months before anything like an effective city government could be organized. Dr. John H. Morse, a pioneer physician, said, "It must be recollected that in proportion as these scenes began to accumulate, just in such a proportion did men grow indifferent to the appeals of suffering and to the dictates of benevolence. The more urgent and importunate the cries and exceeding miseries of the sick and destitute, the more obdurate, despotic and terrible became the reign of cupidity. Everything seemed vocal with the assurance that men came to California to make money, not to devote themselves to a useless waste of time in procuring board and raiment for the dependent, in watching over and taking care of the sick, or in the burying of the dead. The common god, Gold, of that day, taught no such feminine virtues, and the King of the County, Cupidity, de-

clared it worse than idle in his subjects to pay attention to the ties of consanguinity or stultify their minds with any considerations of affection or appreciation of human sympathies. Fathers paid little attention to sons, and sons abandoned fathers when they required a little troublesome care. Brothers were fraternally bound to each other, so long as each were equally independent of assistance, but when sickness assailed and men became dependent upon men, then it was that the channels of benevolence were found to be dry and the very fountains of human sympathy sealed by the most impenetrable selfishness. Had this not been the condition, such scenes as were witnessed could not have been exhibited."

Mail came to California by steamer only, until 1857. The isolation of the California El Dorado was intense and the hunger for news of the outside world was ravishing.

#### FEE SCHEDULES IN FORTY-NINER DAYS

Many educated and well-trained physicians were attracted to the Land of Gold and by 1850 there were 90 practitioners of medicine located in Sacramento. Physicians' fees were from \$16 to \$32 per visit. Medicines cost "anything that an attenuated conscience could ask." Thirty-two dollars was asked for one ounce of "basilicon ointment" and obtained. A hospital was established at Fort Sutter where the rates of board and attendance were from \$16 to \$50 per day; pickaxes cost \$12, and pans for washing gold cost \$4. Clerks in stores got from \$300 to \$500 a month and few could be retained at any price, with gold from \$8 to \$16 an ounce. Neither goods nor gold dust was watched with the least care or consideration. Muslins, calicoes, canvas, old sails, brush, logs, boards, iron, zinc, tin and boxes were used in the construction of houses. Public gambling was conducted in magnificent saloons. Traders, mechanics, miners and speculators, lawyers, doctors and ministers concentrated at the gambling tables like flying insects around a lighted candle at night. Gold dust was the only medium of exchange.

#### INTEREST IN CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE

Dr. Logan brought with him to California instruments for measuring precipitation, temperature and humidity. He had obtained these from the Smithsonian Institution at Washington and immediately began compiling weather records which he continued for twenty years. Upon the establishment of the United States Weather Bureau in 1870, these records were taken over and were made a part of the official records of the Federal Government. He established an office and drug store at 57 K Street. It was customary at that time for physicians to operate a drug store in connection with their practices. A stock of drugs would be maintained upon one side of the room and on the other side were booths, generally covered by black curtains, where examinations were made of patients. At various times he was associated in practice with Dr. John H. Morse, and other leaders among the pioneer physicians. It was not until later years that he established an individual practice, finally establishing a residence and office at 2nd and K Streets, where the first meetings of the State Board of Health were conducted, for the reason that the State Capitol at that time was not completed.

#### ISSUED CALL TO ORGANIZE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Recognizing the need for a State Medical Society and having met Dr. E. S. Cooper of San Francisco and finding that both had similar ideas upon the subject, together they issued a call for the organization of the California State Medical Society. More than a hundred physicians were present at the first meeting in April of 1856. The

American Medical Association had been organized but a few months before and the total attendance at that meeting was not more than 50. Considerable enthusiasm was developed at this meeting. It must be recognized that at this time there were many types of physicians—those who had had the best training available, those who had had no medical training whatsoever, and a third element which had no special motives aside from the accumulation of wealth and who were known as idlers. All of these different types of practitioners were admitted to the medical society with the idea that the unfit would soon eliminate themselves.

The society had rough sailing and finally in 1859 came to an abrupt end, existing only on paper until 1870, when none other than Dr. Logan accomplished the herculean task of reorganizing the society and becoming its president. The immediate cause of the dissolution of the society in 1859 was a report of the committee on obstetrics of which Dr. Beverly Cole was chairman. In this report, the chairman of the committee spoke of the women of California in terms which were regarded as insulting by members of the society who had come from southern states. The report stated that many of them were diseased victims of dissipation and fashionable life. Under the title, "The State Libel," one of the southern physicians said:

"Again, if so many married women are diseased as the professor of obstetrics says, where are the signs in the children? More healthy children were never born. The golden age did not furnish more beautiful children than gladden the hearts of thousands of virtuous, happy, cheerful mothers in this heaven favored center of new civilization. We prophesy that children born in this State will constitute the type of a highly improved variety of the human species. They will be braver and larger than their fathers, the daughters as handsome and virtuous as their mothers, and the latter are unsurpassed by any in the world. Shame, that one should live so shut out from the genial air of heaven, so isolated from decent people as for a moment to imagine such degradation. Look up, ye stupid libelers of your mothers and sisters and daughters, to the serene sky above you. Let your bleared eyes, that forever contemplate lust and debauchery, look away to the mountains that gird our horizon in solemn grandeur. Ascend our city's hills and listen to the Eternal anthem of the ocean and occasionally visit our magnificent temples consecrated to the service of the ever-living God, that your minds may be able to contemplate something more worthy of science and human nature." •

Following this outburst, most of the southern members of the society, including Dr. Logan, walked out. The State Medical Society was dead for 10 years. Dr. Logan, however, spoke or wrote no protest but, according to the dictates of southern chivalry, expressed his disapproval by his withdrawal.

#### FRIENDSHIP WITH DR. ELIAS SAMUEL COOPER, FOUNDER OF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Logan's friendship with Cooper must have been based upon Cooper's remarkable skill as a surgeon. He had come to San Francisco in 1855. He had considerable trouble in Illinois, where he had been accused of robbing cemeteries in order to obtain cadavers. Logan, Cooper and Lane together visited Smith's Pomological and Floral Gardens, two and a half miles east of Sacramento on the American River. The agriculturists will be interested in knowing that in 1857 in these gardens there were 3,000 peach trees of 75 varieties, 20 varieties of strawberries, 10,500 grape vines of 60 varieties. In 1856 peaches were

sold for \$19,178, strawberries for \$2,294, and from the nursery \$5,097 worth of trees, flowers and plants, of which Mr. Smith had 700 different species. In addition, \$2,579 worth of garden produce and \$3,027 worth of seeds were sold, bringing the total receipts for one season to \$32,175.

Dr. Logan was possessed of considerable talent as an artist, for in Morse's Medical Journal there appears a statement to the effect that "our fellow-townsmen, Dr. Thomas M. Logan, has painted a picture of fruit from Smith's Pomological and Floral Gardens, which should be reproduced and distributed throughout the United States for the purpose of attracting people to California."

Cooper died in 1862. He had organized the first medical school on the Pacific Coast, known as the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific, which was afterwards reorganized as the Medical College of the Pacific, in later years becoming Cooper Medical College, endowed by his nephew, Dr. Levi C. Lane. Cooper suffered from a nervous affliction and together with Lane journeyed through the mountain districts, stopping at Sacramento in an effort to recover his health. He had rested many weeks at Saratoga before this trip, but while at Sacramento he was told by Lane that he could not possibly survive. He returned to San Francisco to settle his affairs before returning to Illinois, whence he had come. Death overtook him, however, and he died within a week after returning from the goldfields. He was only 40 years old when he died. He was known as a bold, enthusiastic and original surgeon. Much of his success was due to the use of alcohol on his instruments. He made his reputation in San Francisco by a sensational operation, removing successfully a breech-pin of a fowling piece from beneath the heart of a boy. All other surgeons in San Francisco had refused to operate. The operation was successful to the boy and to Cooper, but the latter gained the everlasting enmity of the medical men of San Francisco.

#### DR. LOGAN'S WRITINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

From 1860 to 1870, Dr. Logan wrote continually for the medical journals and he presented reports to the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement\* on the medical history of California. Most of his writings were on climatology and meteorology as related to health. In 1867, he made a trip to Europe, spending several months visiting medical institutions in France, England and Germany. Upon reviving the State Medical Society in 1870, his address as president covered mortality of California. In 1870 and 1872 he published his report on the "Annual Museum for the Exhibition of the American Medical Association in Philadelphia and the Contributions from California." At the meeting in Philadelphia in 1872 he was elected president of the association and when presiding at the St. Louis meeting in 1873 he discussed medical education and State medicine. After becoming permanent secretary of the State Board of Health in 1870, he took up such matters as ventilation of school rooms and prevalence of special diseases. He believed firmly in a National Health Council [National Department of Public Health, with Chief as a member of the cabinet of the President of the United States], and wrote long arguments favoring the establishment of such a council. He wrote extensively on the subject of malaria, tuberculosis, vital statistics, regulations concerning the dead, use of intoxicating liquors, salubrity of public institutions and dozens of other subjects, many of which are actively discussed today. He was president of the Agassiz Institute in Sacramento, which was organized in 1872, following the personal appearance of Agassiz on the Pacific Coast.

He was meteorologist of the State Agricultural Society and an honorary member of the Imperial Botanical and Zoological Society of Vienna. He continued as secretary of the State Board of Health until his death in February of 1876.

Room 611, Phelan Bldg., 760 Market Street.

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Editor's Note.—Because of their relationship to Author Jones' historical sketch, some brief excerpts from minutes of the first meeting of the "Medical Society of the State of California," on its reorganization on October 19, 1870, as printed in Volume I—"Transactions of the Medical Society of California," are here given. (The name of the state medical association was changed from "Medical Society of the State of California" to "California Medical Association" on June 23, 1923, at which time the House of Delegates adopted a new constitution.) Excerpts from the meeting of October 19, 1870, follow:

(COPY)

#### TRANSACTIONS OF

#### THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

During the Years 1870-71

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY

In pursuance of a call issued by the State Board of Health, for a Convention to reorganize the State Medical Society, a number of physicians met in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, in San Francisco, October 19, 1870.

The meeting was called to order at 10½ o'clock A.M., by Dr. T. M. Logan, of Sacramento, on whose motion Dr. James L. Ord, of Santa Barbara, was chosen Chairman. Dr. George Hewston, of San Francisco, was appointed Secretary.

At the request of Dr. H. Gibbons, Sr., Dr. T. M. Logan, through whom, as Secretary and executive officer of the State Board of Health, the meeting had been called, delivered an address of welcome, and explained the objects in view, as follows:

Gentlemen: In consequence of the part I have taken, as the executive of the only organization representing, in any degree, the profession of the State, in calling you together, it becomes my privilege, as well as my duty, to thank you sincerely for this your cordial response. Fourteen years ago [1856], in association with the lamented Cooper, who was the leading spirit of the occasion, I officially signed the call, as Corresponding Secretary of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, for a Convention in that city, to inaugurate the scheme which we are now assembled to resuscitate. The objects for which the State Medical Society [Medical Society of the State of California] was formed did then, as they do now, enlist my warmest interest and command my active coöperation; and, judging from the intelligent—many of them old familiar—faces around me, I have reason to believe that I entertain these views and professions only in common with you all.

Prior to this organization, as most of you well remember, the medical mind was in a state of inertia—the profession in a chaotic condition. The dominant materialism of the Golden Age, which had invaded every department of human activity, and inverted the natural order of things by subjecting the higher to the lower, was degrading medicine into a mere business, leading men of real ability, who might have been remembered as benefactors of their race, to spend their noble energies in building up an extensive practice, irrespective of the means, by which alone the much-coveted prize could be secured. But no sooner were the clarion notes of our call sounded, than a new spirit was awakened, and from their sheltering privacy, in all parts of the State, volunteers poured in, and threw their souls into the movement which was to

purify and regenerate the prostrated glory of their calling. I need not remind you how the dim line of demarcation—so dim as scarcely to have been seen before by the professional eye—was then drawn so decidedly between false and sterling merit, that even the materialists, who relied upon the influence of cliques to be sustained, were obliged to chime in for a time with the overwhelming movement.

Nor need I recall the varied subsequent experience, which has but confirmed that of all other reformatory proceedings, that it is only by the slow workings of time that radical and lasting changes can be effected. As the formative crystal and the germinal cell which your microscopes reveal, are but the hidden sources of the mightiest elemental forces or of the most intricate developments of organic life, so the primordial movement which we are now assembled to further and consolidate, was but the beginning of the inborn power which is still animating the great body of the profession, and carrying it onward in its legitimate course. Had the State Society done nothing else than concentrate in its perfect and unexceptionable constitution and code of ethics this great uprising of the profession, and conserve its subsequent transactions through publications, it would have performed a service entitling it to an imperishable name in the medical annals of our country. But it has done more than this; and we proudly point, among its results, to our medical colleges, our monthly periodicals, our numerous local societies, and our municipal boards of health, and last, but most exultingly, to our recognition in the legislative councils, by the engrafting of a State Board of Health on our statute book. These are only some of the results, patent and manifest to even the most skeptical, proving how our profession has been moving onward and upward since the great impetus given to it in 1856. . . .

## RHEUMATOID SPONDYLITIS\*

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO EARLY DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

MAJOR ARTHUR J. PRESENT

MEDICAL CORPS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES

*Santa Barbara*

THE frequency with which we have encountered rheumatoid spondylitis in young males of military age has surprised us. In one period of eighteen months more than seventy-five such cases have been admitted to Hoff General Hospital. These represent one of every four patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Since roentgen therapy, if given early, has been found effective in alleviating the symptoms and interrupting the progress of the disease,<sup>1,2,3</sup> a prompt diagnosis is important. Furthermore a diagnosis of rheumatoid spondylitis has explained most bizarre and misleading symptoms, clarifying atypical abdominal and radicular complaints.

Rheumatoid spondylitis has been known variously by such names as ankylosing spondylitis, Marie-Strumpell's disease, Von Bechterew's syndrome and adolescent spondylitis. Most American writers agree that the name rheumatoid is properly applied, since it apparently is a spinal localization of the rheumatoid arthritis which is seen peripherally. This is supported by strong clinical, radiographic and histopathological evidence. The etiology is unknown. Foci of infection have been suspected as

\* Read before the Section on Radiology, at the Seventy-third Annual Session of the California Medical Association, Los Angeles, May 7-8, 1944.

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